

EMT-INTERMEDIATE NARCAN MODULE

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** Under what circumstance should an EMT-I be administering Narcan?
- A:** The EMT-I must be appropriately trained and working with a service that is licensed at or permitted to an EMT-I, EMT-C, or EMT-P level service. In the training module there are modifications to three protocols that identify when EMT-Intermediates should consider Narcan administration (Adult Coma, Gold 3; Pediatric Coma, Pink 1; and Toxins, for Narcotics, Yellow 5). In such a case, the EMT-I must contact medical control prior to administering Narcan. As with all medications administered by EMT-Intermediates, these cases will be reviewed by regional Quality Assurance programs so that we may better evaluate the effectiveness of these protocols.
- Q:** Who can teach the EMT-I Narcan Module?
- A:** The EMT-I Narcan Module may be taught by an instructor qualified to teach the topic (same standard as applied to CEH programs). This would generally be considered to include a paramedic, nurse, or physician, but would not include an EMT-I previously trained in this program. Final instructor approval is up to each region. The program is **NOT** meant to be a self-study course.
- Q:** Who must complete the Narcan Module?
- A:** The program must be completed by all current EMT-I licensees who have already taken the EMT-I Update program. The Narcan Module will be included in all future Update programs and all EMT-I courses. Those who could be waived from the program would include EMT-I's who were previously paramedics or who are also RN's. Waiver approval is up to each region.
- Q:** How will the Narcan Module be distributed?
- A:** The program will be posted on the Maine EMS web site, and will be mailed to each regional office. A letter will be mailed to each service advising of this program and the need for their EMT-I personnel to be trained.
- Q:** How will we track who has completed the training program?
- A:** CEH rosters from each class will need to be submitted through the regional office to Maine EMS, where a master list of who has completed the class will be maintained.
- Q:** Is Narcan administration via an endotracheal tube or by intramuscular (IM) injection an option?
- A:** Yes. However, because the Maine EMS protocol for Narcan administration by EMT-I's includes the ET and IM routes and these routes are not covered in our current EMT-I program, information on medication administration via an endotracheal tube and intramuscular (IM) injection is included in this module.

- Q:** Where in the Maine EMS Protocols should Narcan be placed with regard to endotracheal intubation?
- A:** In 2 of the 3 protocols (Adult Coma and Pediatric Coma), the step of Narcan administration is inserted after the steps dealing with the airway. In the protocol Toxins – For Narcotics the step of Narcan administration is inserted prior to the step of advanced airway because the administration of Narcan may eliminate the need for an advanced airway, and the prehospital complications associated with the removal of an ET in a patient who has the return of a gag reflex. This encourages the effective usage of a nasal airway and bag-valve-mask ventilation.
- Q:** Is there a psychomotor or evaluation component involved in the Narcan Module?
- A:** Yes. There is a psychomotor component for both ET and IM medication administration.
- Q:** Are there any costs associated with the program?
- A:** Similar to other CEH programs, this module has no automatic associated costs with it.
- Q:** If there is a shortage of 2mg ampules of Narcan, is there an alternative planned?
- A:** Yes, in such a situation, the pharmacy from which the Narcan is received may develop an alternative to the 2mg ampules as long as the service has a minimum of 8mg on board.
- Q:** Will the protocols associated with this module be sent to all services and providers?
- A:** Yes. The 3 protocols associated with the Narcan Module will be sent to all EMT-I, EMT-C, and EMT-P licensed or permitted services; in addition it will be posted on our web site, and will be included in a future article in the Journal of Maine EMS.
- Q:** Will new out of drug box policies have to be filed and signed by the local hospitals and services prior to implementation of this new skill?
- A:** Yes. Existing out of drug box policies will need to be amended to include Narcan and services will have to implement policies that include monitoring Narcan storage and administration.
- Q:** Will the state written and practical exam be changed to reflect this new module?
- A:** No. There are no changes in the state written or practical exam that need to be made at this time due to this program. Future changes could include written or practical exam questions from this program.
- Q:** When will the new protocols become effective?
- A:** The new protocols will become effective on August 1, 2002, when they can be utilized by EMT-I's who have received training in the Narcan Module.
- Q:** What will the QA form and process be?
- A:** The QA form currently being used whenever an EMT-I gives a medication will also be used for this new medication. The forms will continue to be returned to the regions by the EMS service utilizing the new protocol.